



# REPORT.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford Rural District Council.*

EASTGATE,

STAFFORD,

FEBRUARY 12th, 1912.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the health of the Stafford Rural District for the year 1911.

## **Area.**

The district is divided into twenty-four parishes, and has a total area of 52,103 acres, giving an average of 4.41 acres per head of the population.

## **Population.**

The population of the entire district, according to the Census of 1911, was 11,779, and for the purpose of this report the population is estimated in the middle of 1911 to be 11,810.

## **Births.**

There were 253 births registered in the district during the year, but to these must be added 2 births which occurred outside the district, the parents belonging thereto. This makes the total net births 255, equal to a rate of 21.5 per 1,000 of the population.

## **Deaths.**

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the district during the year was 116, equal to a rate of 9.8 per 1,000 of the population. After taking into account the transferable deaths of 8 non-residents registered in the district, and those of 26 residents not registered in the district, the net deaths belonging to the district were 134, equal to a rate of 11.3

It is satisfactory to record that there is a substantial decrease of 2·4 per 1,000 of the population in the death rate in this district, last year's rate being 13·7.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

There were 14 deaths of children under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 55 deaths per 1,000 births registered, compared with 58 deaths per 1,000 in 1910.

### **Chest Diseases.**

Seven deaths have occurred from Bronchitis, and seven from Pneumonia and Broncho-Pneumonia.

1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
20	19	12	18	22	18	13	21	12	14

The average for the past ten years being 16·9 against 17·6 in last year's report.

PHTHISIS.—Six deaths have occurred from this disease during the year.

1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
8	10	6	10	5	5	5	10	11	6

The average for the past ten years being 7·6, against 7·4 last year.

### **Cancer and Malignant Diseases.**

Nine deaths have occurred from these diseases, being an increase of four on last year.

### **Zymotic Diseases.**

During 1911 eighteen deaths have occurred from zymotic diseases, giving a zymotic death-rate of 1·5 per 1,000 of the population.

Enteric	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	7

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during the year, being a decrease of twelve on last year. Castle Church provided eight of these, the remainder being notified from the parishes of Colwich, Tillington, and Seighford.

Four cases only were treated in the Isolation Hospital. Of the remainder, part were treated at the Borough



Isolation Hospital, by request, and part were isolated at home.

### **Diphtheria.**

Twenty-one cases of Diphtheria have been notified, against two last year.

Colwich and Tillington provided seven each of this number, the remainder being distributed over four parishes. I regard the spread of diphtheria in the first-named parishes as due to direct contact, in consequence of having no means of isolation in infected cases. Six cases proved fatal during the year.

### **Enteric Fever.**

Four cases of Enteric Fever have been notified during the year, from the parishes of Brocton (one), Castle Church (one), and Seighford (two).

### **Water Testing.**

The Sanitary Inspector has submitted to me 17 samples of drinking water for analysis. Of these I found :—

Ten Suitable ...	...	} for drinking purposes.
Seven Unsuitable ...	...	

I have also analysed 36 samples of water from the Colwich District. Of these I found :—

Suitable...	...	18	} for drinking purposes.
Unsuitable	...	2	
Doubtful	...	12	
Dangerous	...	4	

### **Physical Features of the District and Occupations.**

The district is mostly agricultural, but much of the land is of a low-lying character. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are connected with the land, but in the area immediately surrounding Stafford the artisans are connected with the engineering and shoe manufacturing industries.

### **Water Supply.**

The parishes adjoining Stafford are supplied by the Stafford Corporation water works. The water is of excellent quality and the supply constant. Otherwise the district in general obtains its water from wells, which, on the whole, is fairly satisfactory.

In consequence of the quality of the water and the distance it has to be carried in the Great Haywood and



Colwich districts, I drew up a special report on this matter. This has been printed and circulated amongst the Members of the Council and the several bodies to whom copies of such reports are directed by the Local Government Board to be sent.

### **Pollution of Rivers and Streams.**

Action has been taken to the extent of requiring owners to filter before discharging sewage effluent into the rivers and streams. The Council has also put in new Septic Tanks and Filter at Walton.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Sufficient sewers have been provided for the more populous parts of Castle Church and Tillington Parishes, and water or slop closets provided to each house. These sewers also receive the sink and bath wastes, there being separate sewers to drain storm water. In other parts of the district where water or slop closets are in use, septic tanks or cesspits with filters or overflow pits constructed at a sufficient distance from the water supply have been provided.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Approximately there are 750 water and slop closets, 1,000 pan or pail closets, 800 privies with privy middens.

The slop closets are discouraged on account of their liability to become stopped up, and the reluctance of occupiers to keep them cleansed. It is estimated there are 200 slop closets.

The water closets are of the straight-backed and wash-down type, and work satisfactorily. Ventilation shafts are fixed to all soil pipes, and all lengths of drainage exceeding 30 feet are ventilated.

### **Scavenging.**

The house refuse is removed by the occupier or owner throughout the district.

The Council provides 2 public ash tips in Castle Church, 1 in Tillington, and 2 in Colwich.

The scavenging of a part of the Parish of Colwich is now the subject of a special report, to be considered by the Council shortly.

### **Sanitary Inspection.**

This is fully set out in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector appended in Table V.

## **Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.**

There are none which can be so controlled.

### **Schools.**

The sanitary condition and the water supply is from time to time inspected and considered as occasion arises by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

### **School Medical Inspection.**

This is undertaken by Medical Officers appointed by, and under the control of, the Staffordshire County Council.

### **Food.**

**MILK SUPPLY.**—There are some 427 Cowsheds in the district which are used for stabling milch cows. These are regularly inspected and have received special attention *re* lighting, ventilation, drainage, general construction, and adaptability; also as to cubic capacity.

One hundred and ten sheds have a cubic capacity of over 600 cubic feet, 117 over 500, and 200 have 400 cubic feet and under. The land-owners have expended considerable sums of money in adapting cowsheds to the requirements of the Act, draining farm yards, and in making alterations to dairies and cooling places.

The sanitary conditions of cowsheds and premises are gradually being further improved, and several large farms are being converted into small holdings by private enterprise and by the Staffordshire County Council, and the premises of each holding are being put in thorough order.

Suspected tuberculous animals are inspected when occasion necessitates.

**OTHER FOODS.**—There are about 153 cowsheds in the district used for stalling cows on farms where butter and cheese are manufactured. Twenty-five of these have a cubic capacity of 600 cubic feet and over, forty-eight have 500 and over, and eighty have 400 and under. These premises are gradually being improved, special attention being given to the lighting, draining, and cleanliness of cowsheds and dairies.

**BAKE HOUSES** in the District are visited and inspected and are generally in a good condition.

**MEAT INSPECTION.**—A regular inspection of the ten slaughter houses now in use is carried out. The meat is

of the best quality, and the slaughter-houses well built and generally fit for their use. No carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis during the year.

The small general shops are inspected periodically and the tinned and other foods reviewed.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—No systematic inspection of food and drugs takes place in the District.

### Housing.

(INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS ACT, 1909.

A special table showing work done under these regulations is appended.

Forty-one houses were surveyed in the following parishes :—

Houses Surveyed, with Place.	Houses made reasonably fit for Human Habitation.
Berkswich ... .. 7	... .. 5
Castle Church ... .. 2	... .. 2
Colwich ... .. 2	... .. 2
Seighford ... .. 6	... .. 6
Stowe ... .. 12	Notices recently served ...
Tillington ... .. 12	No complaint ... 12
Total ... .. 41	Total ... .. 27

Rentals (per year)—

£5 and under ... ..	19
£7 and under ... ..	3
£8 and under ... ..	2
£11 and under ... ..	5
£15 and under ... ..	12
	41

The principal sanitary and structural defects included :—Drainage insufficient ; no sinks, or foul brick and stone sinks improperly drained ; larders unlighted and insufficiently ventilated ; bedrooms without fire places, or other adequate means of ventilation ; living and bedroom windows not made to open ; one case of over-crowding ; paving and floors dilapidated ; dampness and no spouting to eaves ; four and half-inch gable end (a sufficient key was formed in this before cementing twice) ; dilapidated roofs and chimneys ; privies and middens ; insufficient privy accommodation and no ash-pits ; wells insufficiently protected.

In the area immediately around Stafford there is a very great dearth of houses suitable for the artisan class, and consequently a great demand, and there appears no



prospect of this demand being met by the erection of the required class of house, and the would-be inhabitants are consequently put to great inconvenience and privation.

All newly-erected houses are subject to the bye-laws of the Council, which are rigidly enforced.

### **Workshops and Workplaces.**

The Factories and Workshops Act is carried out satisfactorily. With the exception of the three salt works at Tillington, there are no large workshops in the District.

### **Isolation Hospital.**

During the year I drew up a special report as to the cost of erection and administration of a new isolation hospital, but subsequently an agreement was made with the Stafford Corporation, by which all cases of Scarlatina, Enteric and Diphtheria in this district would be treated in the Borough Isolation Hospital, The new arrangement comes into force on the 1st April, 1912.

### **Means for preventing Mortality in Childbirth and Infancy.**

The Notification of Births Act is not adopted in the district.

The Administration of the Midwives' Act for the district is under the supervision of the Staffordshire County Council, as Local Supervising Authority.

### **Chemical and Bacteriological Work.**

The chemical analyses are carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, and the Public Analyst. The bacteriological work is sent to the University of Birmingham, as occasion necessitates.

### **Prevalence of, and Control over, Acute Infectious Diseases.**

On the notification of any infectious disease the home of the patient is at once visited by the Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspector. The possible source of infection is inquired into, also the water, milk and food supply. Bacteriological aids are utilised when thought desirable, and in the case of scarlet fever, the patient isolated.

## **Prevalence of, and Control over, Tuberculosis.**

Up to the present time this disease has been disregarded altogether, and there is no sanatorium or hospital accommodation, but disease has become notifiable as from January 1st 1912, and the cases are now being fully investigated as they arise.

## **Investigation of other Diseases.**

Many parts of the District being of a low lying character, acute and chronic rheumatism, and chest affections, are common in the District.

## **Adoptive Acts in Force in the District.**

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

1. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885. Adopted August, 27th 1887.
2. Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889.
3. Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890. Adopted January 10th, 1891
4. Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (Part 3). Adopted August 3rd, 1895.

## **Anthrax.**

Seven cases of anthrax have occurred during the year, as follows :—Fradswell, 1 ; Berkswich, 1 ; Ellenhall, 1 ; Haughton, 1 ; Ranton, 1 ; and 2 from the same farm at Bradley.

This unusual number of cases appears to have arisen in consequence of the introduction of foreign food-stuffs, necessitated by the failure of the hay, root and corn crops in this district.

Tables of Statistics drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board and the Home Office are appended.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT MARSON,

M.D., B.S. Durh, L.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.,

Medical Officer of Health.





# Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Sixth Annual Report of works carried out in my department during 1911.

There were 37 special complaints received and attended to. These, with other sanitary defects found, make a total of 476 defects, leaving 40 cases outstanding.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—Four statutory samples of water were sent for analysis, one being condemned, and the usual notices served; a sufficient supply of wholesome water being ultimately supplied to the premises.

Fifty-three other samples of water were examined by Dr. Marson, including the 36 from the Colwich Parish, 4 being condemned as dangerous, and several suspicious. Most of the samples were obtained during the very dry period of the year. The wells condemned and suspicious have been thoroughly cleansed, and statutory samples will be taken in due course.

## **Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders.**

Twenty-three applications to be registered under these Orders were received. These were registered after the cowsheds were sufficiently lighted, drained, cleansed, etc., with one exception. Two hundred and forty-two farms were visited, and 436 dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected, and 205 defects found, 191 being remedied. I have to report a marked improvement in the condition of these premises.

### Sanitary Surveying.

During 1911, 21 Plans of new Buildings were submitted to the Council for approval, classified as follows :—

Dwelling Houses	...	39	}	42
	Completed	35		
Small Holdings	...	3		
"	"	Completed	3	
Gt. Western Metropolitan Dairy and Factory	...	...	...	1
New addition at Ranton	...	...	...	1
Septic Tank and Filter at Doxey	...	...	...	1
Two Cottages at Chartley were built under the Board of Agriculture	...	...	...	2
One Cottage was built at Stowe under special powers held by the Great Northern Railway Co.	...	...	...	1

A new building site in Newport-road, near Stafford, for proposed 36 cottages, was not entertained on the ground that it was impossible to drain a portion of the site into the Council's sewer.

A new building site at Queensville, near Stafford, for proposed 239 houses, is now under consideration.

Eleven of the dwelling houses in Marston-road now completed, together with twelve completed in 1910, are property which comply with the recommendations contained in the Town Planning Act of 1909. The houses are built in blocks of 2, 3, and 4, and have a space of 10ft. to 15ft., between each block, there being every convenience for occupiers, including bath, gas, water closets, sanitary ash-bins, and garden back and front.

All new buildings were regularly inspected during course of erection, and the several defects remedied on verbal request.

The Castle Church and Tillington Sewerage Schemes work fairly satisfactorily, and are regularly inspected, and flushed when necessary.

The new septic tank and filters in the Berkswich Parish are finished and now in working order.

Yours obediently,

J. W. COOK.

TABLE I.

## STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Transferable Deaths.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non-Residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
1906	10860	254	254	23'3	134	12'3	2	11	20	78	143 13'1
1907	10940	261	261	23'9	135	12'3	Nil.	6	17	65	141 12'8
1908	11040	247	247	22'3	136	12'3	11	15	19	76	140 12'6
1909	11120	234	234	21'0	136	12'2	4	20	21	89	152 13'6
1910	11200	257	257	22'9	130	11'6	Nil.	24	15	58	154 13'7
1911	11810	253	255	21'5	116	9'8	8	26	14	55	134 11'3

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)

Not known.

Total population at all ages..... 11810 ) At Census  
 Number of Inhabited Houses ..... 2550 of  
 Average number of persons per house ..... 4'6 1911.



STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE II. Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.									Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages		Berkswich	Brocton.	Castle Church	Colwich	Hopton	Ingestre	Seighford	Tillington	Tixall	
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	21	...	...	...	4	7	1	1	...	7	1	...
Erysipelas ...	2	Ages not given owing to want of uniformity in returns.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	15	...	...	...	8	4	...	...	1	2	...	4
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis { Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908.	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	44		1	1	13	12	1	1	3	11	1	4

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation—KINGSTON HILL, NEAR STAFFORD.

Total Available Beds—SIX. No. of Diseases that can be concurrently Treated—ONE.

**STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT.**

TABLE III.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death, during the year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the Subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
All Causes ... ..	134	14	3	7	8	7	17	19	59	7
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	6	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ... ..	1	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1	1
Phthisis—Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	4	2	1	3	2	..	..	1	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	5	4	1
Cancer—Malignant Diseases ... ..	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2
Bronchitis ... ..	7	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	..
Pneumonia (all other forms) ... ..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... ..	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhilitis ... ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	3	3	..	..	..	1	2	2	2	3
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	7	45	..
Suicides ... ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	61	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
TOTALS ... ..	134	14	3	7	8	7	17	19	59	7

STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE IV. INFANTILE MORTALITY during the Year 1911.  
 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Congenital Malformations ...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3
	2	...	1	...	3	1	5	1	4	14

Nett Births in the year ... { legitimate ... 248. illegitimate... 5.	Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 14. illegitimate " ... Nil.



TABLE V.

**SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK**  
done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the  
Year 1911, in the Rural District of Stafford.

	NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		Nuisances Abated after notice by	
	Inspections and observations made	Defects Found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling-houses and Schools :						
Foul Conditions ... ..	310	24	24	...	24	...
Structural Defects ... ..	..	18	18	2	16	2
Overcrowding ... ..	...	5	5	5	...	5
Unfit for Habitation ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	400	20	20	...	20	...
Cowsheds... ..	370	78	78	1	77	1
Bakehouses ... ..	16	5	5	...	5	...
Slaughter-houses ... ..	14	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats ... ..	25	7	7	...	7	...
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	37	37	37	...	37	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ... ..	10	10	10	...	10	...
Water Closets ... ..	20	20	20	...	20	...
House Drainage :						
Defective Traps ... ..	8	8	8	...	8	...
No Disconnection ... ..	8	...	...	...	...	...
Other Faults ... ..	84	84	84	...	52	...
Water Supply ... ..	53	13	13	...	10	...
Pigsties ... ..	7	7	7	...	7	...
Animals improperly kept ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	3	3	3	...	3	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	13	13	13	...	13	...
Totals ... ..	1450	352	352	8	309	8

Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... .. 53  
 „ „ condemned as unfit for use ... .. 13

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed ... .. 2  
 Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... .. 31

TABLE VI.

## Abstract of Particulars asked for by Home Office.

## Factories—Inspections :

Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Written Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

## Defects Found :

	Found.	Remedied.	
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	8
Insufficient Lighting	...	...	1
Pigsty too close to Bakehouse	...	...	1
	—	—	10

## Home Work :

Outworkers (in the Boot Trade only)	...	...	...	6
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## Workshops on Register at the end of the year :

Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Saltmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shoemakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Brickmaking	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cooper	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Motor Garage	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—	47

